

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05108 241619Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 AID-05 DHA-05
/109 W

-----035383 250252Z /14

R 241425Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5366
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 5108

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, ET, SO
SUBJECT: LARGE RALLY HELD IN ADDIS

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 5091; (B) ADDIS ABABA 5064

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU AUG 20 NATIONWIDE
SPEECH IN WHICH HE CALLED ON ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE TO GIVE ALL
FOR DEFENSE CAMPAIGN, ADDIS ABABA RESIDENTS HELD MASSIVE PRO-
GOVERNMENT RALLY AT REVOLUTION SQUARE MORNING AUG 24. NEIGH-
BORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES) DEMONSTRATED CONTINUED ABILITY
TO ENLIST IMPRESSIVE PARTICIPATION BY CITY RESIDENTS (ESTI-
MATED 200-250,000), DESPITE ALLEGED INTENSE POLITICAL IN-
FIGHTING (REFTEL A) AND FACT KEBELE LEADERS FREQUENT ASSASS-
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INATION VICTIMS. ALSO, CONTRARY TO RECENT RUMORS OF LOW
MORALE AND DISSATISFACTION WITH MENGISTU REGIME, PARTICIPANTS
DISPLAYED ENTHUSIASM EQUIVALENT TO PAST RALLIES.

2. ONLY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED VISIBLY WERE
MENGISTU, PMAC VICE-CHAIRMAN ATNAFU, AND OTHER PMAC MEMBERS.
THEME OF MARXISM-LENINISM RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION, WITH

ONLY FEW PLACARDS AND HAMMER-AND-SICKLE BANNERS EVIDENT. (ALTHOUGH TEXTS OF SPEECHES BY LABOR, PEASANT, KEBELE, AND KEBELE REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS MENGISTU, NOT YET AVAILABLE, ONLY ONE REFERENCE TO MARXISM-LENINISM HEARD ON RADIO BROADCAST.) NO ANTI-US PLACARDS OR SLOGANS WERE OBSERVED AND IT IS BELIEVED US NOT MENTIONED DIRECTLY IN SPEECHES. THEMES OBSERVED ON PLACARDS DEVOTED TO ETHIOPIAN NATIONALISM, TO CONDEMNATIONS OF SIAD BARRE AND OTHER REACTIONARY SOMALIS, AND TO ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE RUMORS SOME PLACARDS WOULD REFLECT INTERNAL CIVILIAN POLITICAL STRUGGLE, THIS DID NOT PROVE TO BE CASE.

3. COMMENT: WELL ATTENDED RALLY PROBABLY ACHIEVED MINIMAL GOAL OF STIMULATING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR WAR EFFORT AND DEMONSTRATING DEGREE OF POPULAR SUPPORT THAT STILL EXISTS FOR MENGISTU REGIME. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF PMAC CAN TRANSLATE THIS SUPPORT INTO CONCRETE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS05108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770306-0820
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770831/aaaaazjv.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ceb5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 5091, 77 ADDIS ABABA 5064
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1509550
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LARGE RALLY HELD IN ADDIS
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, ET, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ceb5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009